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Newsletter Committee:

Daria Donovan – Editor
Paul Dynes – Asst. Editor
Penny Kaufhold
Silvia Nickel



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NEIGHBOR TO NEIGHBOR



Official Newsletter of the Westside Residents Association

Founded in 1984

Traffic Nightmare



By Thomas Donovan

Do you hate dealing with the horrible traffic in our neighborhood? Are you tired of fighting traffic jams to get home? Does an endless string of cut-through drivers stream by your home during rush hour? Are you tired of complaining about it? Do you want to do something about it?

Well, you actually can do something about it!

The WLA Traffic Calming Project needs concerned neighborhood residents who want to do more than just complain about traffic. It needs energetic and practical people who are willing to educate themselves and others about the kinds of measures that might reduce traffic problems.

The WLA Traffic Calming Project was organized by the WRA in 2003 to prepare and implement a traffic protection plan.

The goal is to reduce the impact of traffic-related problems in the area bordered by the 405 Freeway, the 10 Freeway, Centinela Boulevard and Santa Monica Boulevard.

Through the efforts of the WRA, money from several development projects has been allocated to fund this traffic protection plan.

Over \$300,000 has been accumulated thus far. A traffic consultant has been retained to assist the project and a Steering Committee has been formed.

This Steering Committee needs people who are willing to roll up their sleeves and commit to doing something about our traffic problems. All that is required is an open mind and the ability to work with others. You do not need to be a member of the WRA to be involved.

Traffic mitigation measures that will be considered include "diversionary" measures, which include signs prohibiting access to certain streets during certain hours. Other "nondiversionary" measures include stop signs, speed humps, traffic circles, median islands, and other traffic control devices.

Community involvement is essential to this project. Neighborhood meetings and workshops will be needed to target specific traffic problems and identify possible solutions.

If you are interested in finding solutions to our traffic issues instead of just grumbling about them, please contact the WRA by telephone at 310-445-8649 or by email at westsidersidents@yahoo.com and let us know that you are interested in working on this project.

Inside the WRA

➤ Comings & Goings

New President on the Block

By Vickie Casas



*"This is a community
that I call Home."*

As the newly elected President of the Westside Residents Association, I would like to introduce myself to our members, as well as to both new and old residents of our community.

My name is Vickie Casas and I have resided in the Sawtelle area of West Los Angeles for thirty-three years. I have also owned and operated a local business in the area for the last twenty-seven years.

Most importantly, I have been married for thirty-two years to Al Casas, a fifty-year resident of this area. We have three children ranging from twenty-three to twelve years old, all of who were also born and raised in West Los Angeles. As you can see, this is a community that I call *Home*.

My membership in the Westside Residents Association began twenty years ago when it was first founded by Tom Donovan. It was called a "residents association" so it would represent everyone who called this area *Home*.

The WRA is not affiliated with any one political party or organization and does not endorse candidates for any political office. As President of the WRA, my fundamental goal will be to continue to preserve the quality of life for those who wish to make their home in our neighborhood and have a safe place to raise their children whether they live here for one year or fifty years.

As your President, I hope to address the needs of *all* residents of this community

– both members and non-members alike. While many issues that concern our neighborhood are apparent, there may be others that you, as a resident of West Los Angeles, may feel are deserving of notice and I hope you will feel free to bring those to my attention. As the President of the Westside Residents Association, I will do my best to be responsive and open to any new ideas.

It is my hope that neighborhood participation by everyone who lives here will help accomplish the vision of the Westside Residents Association -- to preserve and protect the quality of life in our community today and in the years to come.

Westside Residents Association Managing Committee

Vickie Casas – President

Thomas Donovan – Vice President

Penny Kaufhold - Secretary

Silvia Nickel - Treasurer

The Changing of the Guard

By Thomas Donovan

As *Silvia Nickel* steps down from her long-held post as President of the WRA, it is difficult to summarize what she has meant to the WRA, our neighborhood and to me. Any attempt to definitively list her accomplishments would be doomed to inaccuracy, as I am sure that I would omit some of her many unceasing efforts and sacrifices.

Many years ago, when I stepped down as President of the WRA, I was afraid that we would never find someone who would be willing to take on the thankless job performing the many tasks necessary to make our neighborhood association viable and effective.

I need not have worried. In *Silvia*, we found a dynamo of energy and a tireless advocate for our neighborhood. Most of you cannot possibly know the incredible amount of time she has spent attending meetings, writing letters, representing our community at City hearings, creating and even personally delivering our newsletter -- all to help, protect and improve our neighborhood.

It may not be obvious to those who now live in Sawtelle, but it is a far better place to live than it would have been without *Silvia's* extraordinary efforts. Her honesty and passion made it difficult for City government to

ignore our area. Surely we could not have asked for a better representative for our community and the WRA.

Silvia has touched the hearts and minds of so many people, but especially mine. Not only has our neighborhood benefited from her service, but my own life has also been enriched by her and our friendship.

Even though *Silvia* is stepping down as President of the WRA, I am comforted by the fact that she will continue to serve as our Treasurer and will still be active in our community. She is still the best neighbor one could ever wish for.



"In Silvia, we found a dynamo of energy and a tireless advocate for our neighborhood."

In Memoriam

By *Silvia Nickel*

For the past few years, I have taken up a new hobby – the collecting of obituaries. One criterion I have for it is that the person's life had to have had qualities that made it uplifting and inspiring.

One such person was in our midst for many, many years. *Mary Hunt* was a long-time member of the WRA.

She deeply cared for our West Los Angeles community and gave freely of her time and energy to help us in our goal to preserve the quality of life in our neighborhood.

She attended our meetings and our picnics, and helped in delivering notices throughout the neighborhood whenever

she was needed. And most memorably, she was an inspiring presence with her slender frame, white hair and mischievous smile at several protest rallies held outside some local strip clubs.

Mary, thank you. We will always remember you fondly.



WRA Community Forum on Wednesday, June 1, 2005

All residents of our community are urged to attend the Community Forum of the WRA on Wednesday, June 1, 2005 from 7:00-9:00 pm at the Stoner Park Pool Room located right behind the public pool.

We welcome all residents, new and old, to come and find out how our organization is working for you and for our neighborhood. This will be your opportunity to talk about any community issues that concern you. LAPD's Phil Enbody, our Senior Lead

Officer, will also present an update on local crime problems that affect us all and will talk about their plan to re-establish an effective Neighborhood Watch Program. As always, the LAPD is happy to hear from the community it serves.

Refreshments will be served.

Please come and help shape the neighborhood you call *Home*.

Election of New Councilperson On Tuesday, May 17, 2005

By Penny Kaufhold

On May 17, we will be electing a new councilperson for our district. The 11th District seat is being vacated by Councilwoman Cindy Miscikowski because of term limits. Two candidates, Bill Rosendahl and Flora Gil Krisiloff, are running for the Council seat.

Bill Rosendahl, who lives in Mar Vista, is a former professor at Cal. State Dominguez Hills and cable television executive who hosted a respected community affairs program for 16 years. You can check out his background at his website at www.billrosendahl.com.

Flora Gil Krisiloff, who lives in Brentwood, is a former nurse and is the past President of the WLA Area Planning Commission. She is presently the Chairwoman of the Brentwood Community Council. You can review her accomplishments at her website at www.flora2005.com.

In the March 8 primary, Rosendahl received 44.6% of the vote and Krisiloff received 41.7%. A third candidate, Angela Reddock took the remaining 13.7%.

We urge everyone in our neighborhood to vote on Tuesday, May 17. Watch for your election ballot booklet to arrive soon in the mail. Your polling place will be listed on that booklet.

This is a very important election for our West Los Angeles community. While other people in government may be more prominent, your councilperson will likely have more impact on the quality of life in our neighborhood than any other elected official.



Local Adult Entertainment Establishments

By Vickie Casas

Silver Reign is one of five adult-oriented businesses in our local West LA community. It is located on Mississippi Avenue near Bundy Drive behind the strip mall that faces Olympic Boulevard. This adult entertainment establishment has been an ongoing nuisance to our community since its arrival over ten years ago. The owners, Star Planets Incorporated, have consistently shown little regard for the law or for the community that surrounds them.

For the second time in nearly three years, *Silver Reign* has been cited by the Department of Building & Safety for an illegal expansion into an adjacent office space – formerly West LA Printing – in another attempt to circumvent city planning overview.

The club appealed their first citation to the Planning & Land Use Committee, but with the

help of the community, the Department of Building & Safety and the City Attorney, it was denied. It now appears that *Silver Reign* may now be submitting plans to demolish its present location and move the club into the adjacent office space next door in order to acquire more parking. However, because Wildwood School is only 500 feet from this adult establishment, it will be necessary for the club to apply for a Conditional Use Permit in order to retain its designation under Ordinance 12.70 as an all-nude club.

Our community can have considerable input in the issuance of a Conditional Use Permit -- but we need people in our neighborhood to participate in the process by helping our city officials understand that this type of business brings nothing beneficial to a residential area.

We must show that any expansion of *Silver Reign* will only be a further detriment to the people who

live with it on a day-to-day basis. Illegal activity is regularly reported by local law enforcement in connection with this establishment.

Keep in mind that there are school bus stops close to this location. There is a park three blocks away. And high school students are spending their lunch hours at this club because it offers a free lunch buffet. Remember -- since all-nude clubs *do not* serve alcohol, the age limit to get in is only 18 years old.

The WRA will keep all residents informed of any hearing dates for this Application for Conditional Use Permit pertaining to this location. We urge the community to rally together and attend these hearings, write letters and speak out against any such permit being issued to *Silver Reign* that would permit further expansion.

[See related Public Hearing Notice on Page 10.]

"For the second time in nearly three years, Silver Reign has been cited by the Department of Building & Safety for an illegal expansion."

Proposed Development: Another Car Wash

An Environmental Assessment and Conditional Use Permit was applied for on March 22, 2005 for a new car wash to be built on a commercial corner lot next to a residential zone at 11852 Santa Monica Boulevard, West LA 90025 (corner of Santa Monica Boulevard and Westgate Avenue).

Any residents who would be affected by this development and would like to be notified of upcoming hearings on this matter should contact the Council office at 310-575-8461 or the Westside Residents Association at (310) 445-8649.

Membership Drive 2005

The WRA is eager to involve our own residents in creating a community that is always on its way to becoming a better place to live. New ideas and energies are priceless additions to what makes our area in this big, big city very specially *ours*.

Please consider what you can contribute to our efforts to help make living here the best it can be.

Every little bit counts. Join the WRA and be a part of it all. We need you!



Calendar of Events

WRA Community Forum :

Wednesday, June 1, 2005 7-9pm
Stoner Park Pool Room –
(Behind the Public Pool)

WRA Managing Committee Meeting :

3rd Thursday of Every Other Month 7pm

Community Police Advisory Board Meeting :

4th Tuesday Every Month 6:30pm

Neighborhood Council Meeting :

2nd Wednesday Every Month 7pm

Farmers' Market :

Every Sunday 9am-2pm Rain-or-Shine

West LA Neighborhood Council

By Al Casas

The first election for the City of Los Angeles' newly formed Neighborhood Council program took place in October of 2004 and 11 persons were elected to the Board of Directors. The West Los Angeles Neighborhood Council (WLANC) meets on the second Wednesday of every month at 7:00 pm at the Felicia Mahood Senior Center located at Corinth Avenue and Santa Monica Boulevard.

As a member of the WLANC Board and as a long time member of the

Westside Residents Association, I will keep the WRA membership informed about what the WLANC is doing and its potential effect on our community.

Please remember that the WLA Neighborhood Council is not a replacement for the *independent* status of our residents association. All neighborhood councils are still very much under the control of the City of Los Angeles and in some ways, this limits how much

they can challenge the City on certain issues.

However, the Westside Residents Association does not have these constraints and is *completely* autonomous.

Our community's participation in the WRA is now even more vital and we must be vigilant to insure that our West LA Neighborhood Council is responsive to the issues of our association and to the community it is intended to represent.

The West LA Good News

Our Own Farmers' Market Every Sunday

By Danny Meyer



"The year-round Market is held every Sunday from 9am to 2pm at the West LA Civic Center Plaza, behind the Public Library at 11360 Santa Monica Boulevard."

The West Los Angeles Farmers' Market and Community Fair successfully opened to hundreds of area residents this past summer. The year-round event is held every Sunday from 9am to 2pm at the West LA Civic Center Plaza, located behind the Public Library at 11360 Santa Monica Boulevard, three blocks west of the 405 Freeway.

The market includes fresh fruits, vegetables, flowers, bread, hot prepared foods, and local arts and crafts vendors. Visitors also enjoy listening and dancing to live music and entertainment at the recently refurbished Civic Center band shell. The overwhelming public response indicates that the market has quickly become one of the region's favorite weekly traditions.

After a rainy winter season the market has expanded north onto Purdue Avenue and is now visible from Santa Monica Boulevard. A wide range of festivals, including Passover, Cinco de Mayo, Memorial Day, Electronic music, and a Shakespearean production, are planned for this Spring and Summer. We need your help spreading the word and patronizing the market every Sunday.

Danny Meyer and Nathalie Deschatres of the nonprofit West LA Cultural Association manage the market. Their event is part of a broad, two-year revitalization effort to reclaim the Plaza for community gatherings and they invite residents to hold events there. Contact them at (310) 281-7855 or at www.westlafarmersmarket.com.

Special thanks are in order for the many people who have made the farmers market and civic center revitalization possible: Ellen Gaines and Sherrie Berlin of the Mahood Senior Center, Chris Alexander of A-Squared Urban Design, Silvia Nickel, Tom Donovan and Vickie Casas from the Westside Residents' Association, Mark Edwards and Mary Misono of Councilwoman Miscikowski's office, Jay Handal of the West LA Chamber of Commerce, Phil Enbody, Senior Lead Officer from the West LA Division LAPD, and Susan Strick from the Neighborhood Prosecutor's Office.



"Visitors also enjoy listening and dancing to live music at the recently refurbished Civic Center Band Shell."



Entertainment and Special Events Calendar



West LA Farmers Market and Community Fair



All shows take place in our renovated 1956 Band Shell in the West LA Civic Center Plaza behind the public library at 11360 Santa Monica Boulevard on Sundays from 9am to 2pm. Schedule subject to change. The Market is open every Sunday -- *rain or shine* -- except on major holidays. For more information go to www.WestLAFarmersMarket.com or call 310-281-7855.

Scrabble tables available from 11 am to 2 pm. Please RSVP to tommypower@backball.com.

May 1	11:00 Noon 12:15 1:00	Lea Spiess & Captain Dan: Jazz Duet Free Raffle - Market Goodies ! Grievous Angels: Crenshaw Gumbo Katya: Chick Rock with (Positive) Attitude www.KatyaMusic.com
May 8	Noon	Cinco de Mayo Festival Sponsored by West LA News and Entertainment, West LA Neighborhood Council, and Nora Sterry School Parents Assoc. Mariachi Band
May 15	11:00 Noon 1:00 2-6pm	Market A to Z: Rachel Narins of FreshApproachCooking.com Heels and Souls Square Dancers Allison Sattinger: Confessional Pop Piano www.AllisonSattinger.com Shakespeare Theatre Auditions
May 22	10:15 11:00 Noon 1:00 2-6pm	Squeakers Youth Ensemble Market A to Z: Food Demo Oxalis: Traditional Irish Music Band Rod Terrell & Captain Dan: Groovy Jazz Duet Shakespeare Theatre Auditions
May 29	Noon	Memorial Day Weekend Free Raffle - Market Goodies !
June 5	Noon-6pm	Poolabomb New Music Festival www.Poolabomb.com
June 12	Noon 12:30	Free Raffle - Market Goodies ! Dragana's Student Showcase www.Dragana-Music.com

Mark Your Calendars

- ✓ *Friends of the West Los Angeles Library* will be hosting their Book Sale fundraiser on Saturday, June 18, 2005 at the West LA Public Library located at 11360 Santa Monica Boulevard. Help support our local library. Please contact them at (310) 575-8323 if you have any books to donate.
- ✓ Summer's just around the corner! The Stoner Park Pool facilities will be opening to the public on Saturday, June 25, 2005. Grab your kids and some sunscreen and enjoy a pleasant day at the pool! Call (310) 479-7200 for information and hours.

Crime Corner



The good news is that violent crime in our West LA community is down by 47% and property crime is down 18%, year to date. Burglary suspects known as "office creepers" have increased along businesses in the Wilshire Boulevard corridor. Our major crime problem continues to be car burglaries. The bad news is that West LA officers have been transferred to other stations in Los Angeles to help combat the violent crime in other neighborhoods, leaving us less protected.

There is a great deal of interest by the community for a new device called a License Plate Scanner which is similar to a radar gun, but it quickly reads the license plates of moving or parked vehicles, informing the Police if the vehicle is stolen, if there are unpaid traffic tickets, etc. The cost for each unit is \$25,000. West LA LAPD would like to purchase 3 units. A total of \$2,000 has been donated to date.

Our West LA Commander, Captain Proctor has introduced a program that allows volunteers to go through a training program to become Crime Prevention Specialists. After training, the volunteers become Specialist Reserve Officers and will be able to call on victims of certain crimes to garner additional evidence and to provide other assistance. The start-up of the program is scheduled for mid-May. Any volunteers?



This & That



Calling All Emails!

Here's another great way to get the news! We would like to encourage you to give us your email address so we can keep you right on top of things. Once you are on our email list, you will receive our newsletter via the Internet along with upcoming city hearing dates, important neighborhood notices and alerts, and LAPD's crime report for our area.

This way we can save time, some money, and maybe more than a few trees. Everybody wins!

Please Note: Your email addresses will remain completely confidential and will never be sold or distributed to anyone outside our organization.

Our New Look!

We hope you noticed that the WRA newsletter, *Neighbor To Neighbor*, has had an extreme makeover and is sporting a dashing new look!

But remember, style is only skin deep -- we hope you will continue to recognize it as your best source for up-to-date, reliable neighborhood news and information that affects you in our West LA community.



Thanks a Bunch!

The WRA wishes to thank Copyland at 11717 Pico Boulevard in West LA (310-479-3957) for their generous discount on the copying, stapling and folding of this newsletter. They are indeed, good neighbors.



Public Hearing Alert

The Police Permit Review Board has scheduled a public hearing regarding the permit of *Silver Reign* to operate as an adult entertainment business on Mississippi Avenue near Bundy Drive (Also see Newsletter Page 5). The hearing is scheduled for *Wednesday, May 18, 2005 at 9:00 a.m.* at 150 N. Los Angeles St., Los Angeles (behind Parker Center). All concerned residents are urged to attend or write a letter voicing your

views either directly to the Police Permit Review Board, Attn: Booker Ridgeway, Hearing Review Officer at the above address, or c/o the WRA by mail or email which will then be forwarded. Please contact the WRA at (310) 445-8649 for further information or if you need transportation to this hearing. This is an opportunity for our community to be heard. Please participate in what happens to your neighborhood.

FYI...

City of Los Angeles
www.lacity.org

Office of the Mayor - WLA City Hall

West Los Angeles Municipal Building
7166 West Manchester Avenue
Westchester, CA 90045
(310) 410-1749
(213) 473-7029 (Fax)

11th District Council Office

1645 Corinth Ave., Room 201
L.A., CA 90025
(310) 575-8461
(310) 575-8305 (Fax)
www.cityofla.org/COUNCIL/cd11

Los Angeles Police Department

West L.A. Community Police Station
1663 Butler Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90025
(310) 575-8400

Senior Lead Officer Phillip Enbody

Office: (310) 575-8423
Cell: (310) 622-3986
Email: 8A53@mycingular.blackberry.net

Graffiti

Graffiti Removal Hotline
(800) 611-2489

Garbage Pickup

L.A. Dept. of Sanitation
(800) 773-2489

Los Angeles Animal Services

www.laanimalservices.com

West LA Animal Shelter

1950 Missouri Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90025
(888) 452-7381
(310) 207-4965 (Fax)



TIPS TO PREVENT "STOLEN IDENTITY"

- ✓ The next time you order checks, have them printed only with your first initial(s) and last name. If someone steals your checkbook, they will not know if you sign your checks with your initials or your first name, but your bank will.
- ✓ Do not sign the back of your credit cards. Print instead, "PHOTO ID REQUIRED".
- ✓ When you pay by check on credit card accounts, do not write the full account number on the "Memo" line – use only the last four numbers. The credit card company knows the rest of the number, and anyone who might be handling your check as it passes through all the check processing channels will not have access to it.
- ✓ Print your work phone number on your checks instead of your home phone. Use a P.O. box instead of your home address if you have one. If you do not have a P.O. box, use your work address. *Never* have your social security number printed on your checks.
- ✓ Place the contents of your wallet on a photocopy machine. Copy both sides of *everything* in it (license, credit cards, etc.). If your wallet or purse is stolen, you will know exactly what needs to be reported and cancelled. Keep the photocopy in a safe place.

IF YOU ARE A VICTIM OF "STOLEN IDENTITY"

- ✓ Cancel your credit cards immediately. By having a photocopy of them, you will also have the toll free numbers and your account numbers handy so you will know whom to call.
- ✓ File a police report immediately in the jurisdiction where your credit cards, etc., were stolen. This proves to credit providers that you were diligent, and this is a first step toward an investigation (if there ever is one).
- ✓ Most importantly, *immediately* phone the three national credit reporting organizations listed below to place a fraud alert on your name and social security number. If an application for credit is ever made over the Internet in your name, this will alert any company to the fact that your information was stolen, and they will be required to contact you by phone to authorize any new credit. Keep these numbers handy.

Equifax: 1-800-525-6285

Experian (formerly TRW): 1-888-397-3742

Trans Union: 1-800-680-7289

Social Security Administration (fraud line): 1-800-269-0271

"Do not sign the back of your credit cards. Print instead, "PHOTO ID REQUIRED".



Westside Residents Association

P.O. Box 25723
Los Angeles, CA
90025

PHONE:
(310) 445-8649

FAX:
(310) 268-9204

E-MAIL:
[Westsideresidents
@yahoo.com](mailto:Westsideresidents@yahoo.com)



Founded in 1984

We're on the Web!

Visit us at:
www.neighborhoodlink.com/la/wra/

About Our Organization...

The Westside Residents Association was founded in 1984 as a nonprofit, volunteer organization serving the community bordered by Wilshire Boulevard, the San Diego Freeway, the Santa Monica Freeway, and Centinela Avenue. All persons residing or owning property within these boundaries are encouraged to join. The WRA is governed by a Managing Committee which meets once every other month and is dedicated to preserving the qualities of our neighborhood that make it a desirable place to live.

Westside Residents Association

**Please join the WRA and have a say in your community.
Our neighborhood needs you!**

Name _____

Address _____

Zip _____ Phone _____

Email _____

**Enclosed is a check payable to the
Westside Residents Association for:**

☐ \$ 5 Minimum

☐ \$20 Suggested

☐ \$10 Supporter

☐ \$50 Benefactor

Mail to:

Westside Residents Association, Treasurer

P.O. Box 25723
Los Angeles, CA 90025

WESTSIDE RESIDENTS
ASSOCIATION
P.O. Box 25723
Los Angeles, CA 90025

NAME
STREET ADDRESS
CITY, STATE 00000